

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. Serial No.: 09/431,451

Group Art Unit: 1650

Filing Date: November 1, 1999

Examiner: Sisson, B.

Applicant: Senapathy, P.

Attorney Docket No.: 34623.005

Title: **METHOD FOR AMPLIFYING SEQUENCES FROM UNKNOWN DNA****RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.111****BOX: NON-FEE AMENDMENT**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

To the Commissioner:

Responsive to the Notice dated November 1, 2001, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration in view of the following amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 26, lines 8-11, please delete the entire paragraph and insert therefor the following paragraph:

-- For obtaining long DNA fragments containing the splice junctions or exons, long range PCR can be used in the method described in Senapathy, allowed patent application 08/406,545, now U.S. Patent No. 5,994,098, issued November 30, 1999, by including longer fixed sequences in the degenerate primers. --

At page 26, after line 11, please insert the following paragraphs:

-- Any non-specificity can be avoided by fine-tuning the reaction conditions such as by adjusting the annealing temperature and the reaction temperature during amplification, and/or adjusting the length and G/C content of the primers. These adjustments are routinely done in the standard PCR amplification protocol. In short, although the partly-fixed primers have a